



Missouri Department of Health

December 1, 1999

TO: Missouri Department of Health District Offices, Local Public Health Agencies,
Missouri Influenza Sentinel Physicians, Infectious Disease Specialists,
Hospital Infection Control Practitioners, and Other State Infectious Disease
Directors

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SUBJECT: Influenza Report

The first case of laboratory-confirmed influenza was reported to the Missouri Department of Health (DOH) by the Springfield-Greene County Public Health Center on October 12, 1999. The case, a 13-year old female, was seen in a clinic in Springfield where a rapid influenza A test was performed. The isolate was forwarded to the State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) and was subtyped as influenza A(H3N2).

As of week 46, the week ending November 27, 1999, 48 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported. The identified laboratory-confirmed cases reside in the following counties: Barry, Boone, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Christian, Greene, Jefferson, Marion, Montgomery, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Taney, and Webster. All 48 cases, have been identified as influenza A, with 4 (8.3%) subtyped by the SPHL as (H3N2). One of the four subtyped isolates was forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) validation testing and was characterized by hemagglutination-inhibition using post-infection ferret antisera as related antigenically to A/Sydney/05/97(H3N2). This H3N2 subtype is compatible with the H3 influenza strain included in the 1999-2000 influenza vaccine. (Refer to Attachment 1 showing the table

of confirmed influenza cases by district, county of residence, and type the table of confirmed influenza cases by ages.)

The number of influenza-like illness cases reported by the Missouri Sentinel Active Surveillance System (SASS) for week 46 was 1,606. This number is below the number reported for this week during the 1998-99 influenza season, but higher than the previous 10 -year average. (Refer to Attachment 2.) The DOH has decided to widen the influenza surveillance season to match the CDC influenza surveillance period. Comparable data for the prior 10 years is unavailable for weeks 40 through 45.

No school closures or outbreaks of influenza-like illness have been reported to date.

In Missouri, pneumonia and influenza deaths for week 46 were 16. This number is well below the numbers reported for this week during the 1998-99 influenza season and the previous 10 -year average. (Refer to Attachment 2.) Nationally during week 46, the percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza reported by 122 U.S. cities was 6.4% which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.7% for week 46. However, the percentage of pneumonia and influenza deaths exceeded threshold values for this time of year for the 8 weeks prior to week 46.

Nationally, during week 46, 6 states reported "regional" influenza activity and 34 states reported "sporadic" influenza activity. Missouri has reported "sporadic" influenza-like illness activity to CDC for weeks 42 through 46.

The U.S. World Health Organization Collaborating Laboratory Reports indicate that 99% of the influenza identified this season has been type A and 1% type B. Forty-three percent of the influenza A isolates have been subtyped and all were A(H3N2). Influenza A isolates have been reported from 38 states and influenza B isolates from 2 states. (Refer to the CDC, Influenza Summary Update, Attachment 3.)

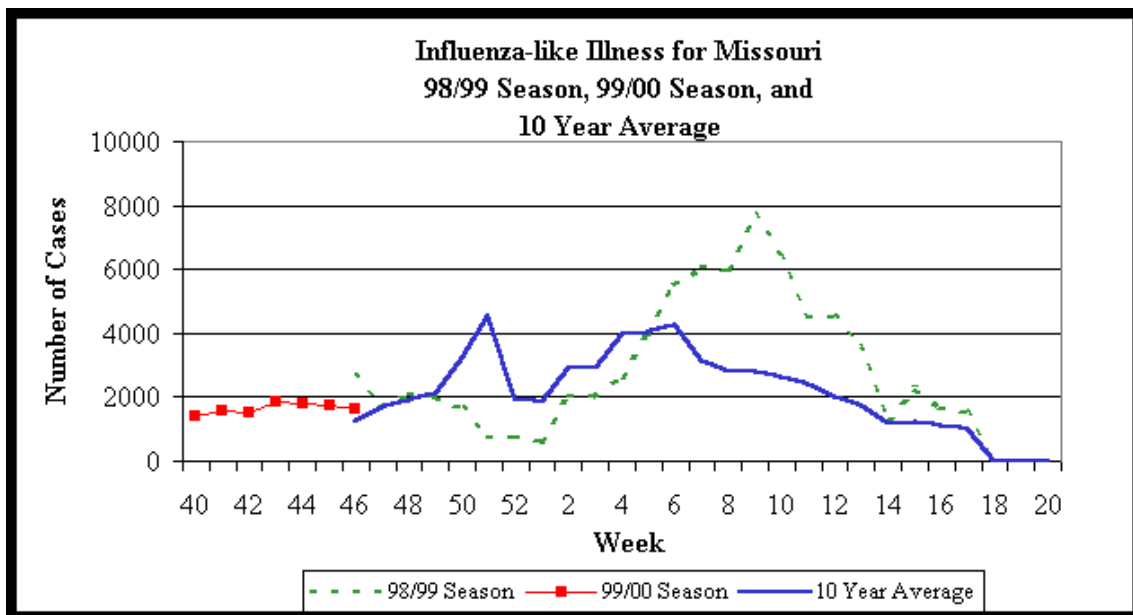
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Influenza Summary Update, can be accessed weekly on the Internet at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>. A more detailed report can be accessed at <http://www.ncid.cdc.gov/flu/weekly.htm>. The password is "flurept." This report is presented in a WordPerfect or RTF (without graphics) file.

During week 46, U.S. influenza sentinel physicians indicated that 1% of all patient visits were due to influenza-like illness. This percentage is within the baseline levels of 0% to 3%. Missouri collaborates with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and participates in the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Physician Surveillance Network. Missouri influenza physicians indicate that less than 3% of all patient visits for week 46 were due to influenza-like illness. (Refer to Attachment 4, showing influenza sentinel activity graphs for Missouri and for the West North Central Region, which includes Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.)

District	County	Type A (not subtyped)	Type A (H3N2)	Type B	Total
Central	Boone	1			1
Central	Camden		1		1
Central	Montgomery	2			2
Eastern	Jefferson	1			1
Eastern	St. Charles	3	1		4
Eastern	St. Louis	21			21
Eastern	St. Louis City	3			3
Northeast	Marion	4			4
Southeast	Cape Girardeau	2			2
Southwest	Barry	1			1
Southwest	Christian	1			1
Southwest	Greene	2	1		3
Southwest	Taney		1		1
Southwest	Webster	1			1
	Unknown	2			2
					0
Total		44	4	0	48

	Confirmed Influenza Cases by Age Group	
Age Group	Number of Cases	Percent
<1	1	2.1%
1 - 4	1	2.1%

5 - 9	0	0.0%
10 - 14	1	2.1%
15 - 19	1	2.1%
20 - 29	6	12.5%
30 - 39	2	4.2%
40 - 49	9	18.8%
50 - 59	2	4.2%
60 +	10	20.8%
Unknown	15	31.3%
Total	48	100.0%



**P & I Deaths for Missouri,
98/99 Season, 99/00 Season,
and 10 Year Average**

